

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobo et al. in view of Brasen. This rejection is traversed and is supported by the following discussion.

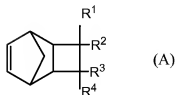
As the Examiner states, "Kobo is silent about the outer alicyclic ring size being four, Brasen teaches that polycyclic alkenes having three or four fused rings and its outer alicyclic ring being a four-membered ring ***can be readily prepared***." (emphasis added)

The Brasen method for preparing tricyclononenes by reacting norbornadiene with an olefin is limited to highly fluorinated olefins, namely those of formula $\text{CF}_2=\text{CXR}$, where X is a halogen of atomic number 9 through 17, an omega-hydroperfluoroalkyl group or a perfluoroalkyl group of not more than 6 carbons, and R is a halogen of atomic number 9 through 17.

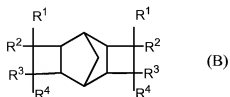
It is believed that the Examiner assumes that the reaction of norbornadiene with other olefins will also give tricyclononenes. In particular, that the reaction of norbornadiene with



where R^1 to R^4 are independently H; $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_{10}$ alkyl or alkoxy, optionally substituted by halogen or ether oxygens; or $\text{C}_6 - \text{C}_{20}$ aryl will give compounds of structure A (see below)



It is known in the art, other olefins react with norbornadiene to give 2+2+2 cycloadducts (e.g., compounds of structure B) which are saturated and useless for this application.



To get the desired unsaturated tricyclononenes, these other olefins must be reacted with quadricyclane.



Quadricyclane

Therefore, the combination of Kobo and Brasen does not teach, disclose or suggest a viable method for making compounds of structure (I) as claimed in the present application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner remove the rejection.

Claims 5-14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobo et al. in view of Brasen and further in view of Wheland et al. This rejection is traversed and is supported by the discussion found hereinabove. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner remove the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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